

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Helenberg called the March 27, 2017, regular meeting of the Castle Rock City Council to order at 7:31 pm., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following councilmembers were present: Art Lee, Lee Kessler, Earl Queen, Paul Simonsen and Ellen Rose.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Rick Burchett, representing Mount Saint Helens Motorcycle Club presented a plaque to Mayor Helenberg and a \$100 check donation to the library in appreciation of the city's support and the club's off-road motorcycle race held last month.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Attorney Nicole Tideman - no report

Sergeant Scott Neves (serving as Acting Police Chief)

- reported this past week, CRPD has been investigating multiple vehicle prowls at the Park N Ride lot. Public Works have mounted cameras at the Park N Ride, and Reserve Officer Stennick took the lead to coordinate additional surveillance details. Reserve Officers Gorley and Musso and Cadets Hall and Coopman also participated in this detail.

City Engineer Tom Gower

- provided an update on the Stormwater mapping project (Phase 1). Data has been collected and mapping of the basins is almost complete. He estimates the project will be under budget by \$25,000 because of the field work completed by the public works personnel. Phase 2 of the project will include an evaluation of the system to identify deficiencies and provide recommendations for improvement. This will require survey work to be completed.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington

- city provided a letter in support of continuation of USDA funding on the federal level. The proposed 2018 federal budget does not include funding for USDA programs that support water and wastewater facilities.
- reminded councilmembers of the Castle Rock City Transportation Benefit District meeting on April 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Paul Helenberg

- attended the Planning Commission meeting.

Nancy Chennault, Castle Rock Community Development Alliance (CRCDA) Board Member

- reported the Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce is continuing to support for the city Street Art program. This sponsorship funds the purchase of street banners and will allow completion of this project for the downtown area and extend toward Exit 49 commercial area.
- Castle Rock America In Bloom volunteers planted 8,000 young plants, 142 baskets and 20 large planter boxes. She reported there are now 15,000 red tulips and 2,000 daffodils around the community that were paid from volunteer donations.
- America In Bloom judges will be evaluating our community on July 19th through July 22nd. Tours for the judges will be conducted and the judges will also meet with elected officials and community leaders.
- the annual Castle Rock Spring Clean-Up Day will be held April 29th.

PRESENTATION

Public Works Director Dave Vorse summarized that Nancy Chennault will be providing a presentation on the Smart Growth Conference that she attended. Following that, Cowlitz County Health Department employees Chelsea Chandler and Yasmini Aknin will be speaking on the benefits of developing a Complete Street program.

Chennault stated scholarships for her to attend the Smart Growth Conference in California were provided by Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments and Kaiser Permanente. The purpose of the conference was to learn practical tools for creating innovative communities. There were over 1500 participants, 16 tours, four educational sessions required of all attendees and several breakout sessions and exhibits. Chennault provided a Power Point presentation of the conference highlights. She noted the principles of smart growth included:

- compact building design
- create a range of housing opportunities
- fostering distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of 'place'
- stakeholder collaboration with communities
- land use policy
- implementation of Complete Street program.

Chennault stated there were three levels of attendee options; from beginner to advanced. She attended the beginner sessions, various networking opportunities and tours.

Chennault provided pictures from the educational tours, which included revitalization of areas, creation of open spaces and the integration of art.

Note: Tape malfunction – tape restarted.

Chelsea Chandler described how Complete Street Programs lead to healthy communities. She defined 'Complete Streets' as streets designed and operated to enable safe access for all users; including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. She noted improvements center on safety, encourage walking and bicycle activity and provide connectivity for residents to businesses and their community.

Chandler stated, in Castle Rock, one-third of the population are seniors and 18% of the population are youth under the age of 15 years old. Within the senior community of Cowlitz County, over half of the population age 65 and over suffer from a chronic disease.

Public Works Director Dave Vorse provided a Power-Point showing pictures of several areas within Castle Rock that could benefit from implementation of a Complete Street program. He also showed several recent street projects in Castle Rock (such as Cowlitz Street West) that were engineered using the Complete Street concept to improve connectivity and safety.

Vorse requested city council to consider adopting a Complete Street policy or resolution and to tie this program into the city's developer standards. He recommends the mayor appoint a committee to draft a policy for consideration (and adoption) by council. Vorse suggested the committee members include both elected officials and user group representatives. Councilmembers Kessler and Rose both agreed this would be a good idea. Councilmembers Queen and Simonsen volunteers to serve on this committee and Mayor Helenberg stated he would also participate. Vorse encouraged councilmembers

to review the fact sheet provided by Cowlitz County Health Department entitled 'Complete Streets Lead To Healthy Communities'. He stated he believes the City of Castle Rock has been a leader in southwest Washington for development of walkable and accessible communities.

Ms. Chandler announced that Castle Rock Senior Center just began a walking group and encouraged participation in that group.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Mayor Helenberg tabled consideration to approve the March 13, 2017 regular city council meeting minutes until the next regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Rose to adopt Resolution No. 2017-03, a resolution asking qualified voters to fund by Special Excess Levy the furnishing of public library services to the citizens of Castle Rock and will submit the following question: 'Whether or not a Special Excise Levy on real property shall be had for the purpose of funding library services to the citizens of Castle rock during the year 2018, on second reading. By roll call vote; unanimous 'Aye'.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Helenberg requested council approval of the amended planning service contract (denoted as Exhibit C) with Gregg Dohrn to complete various planning projects, including amending the city's marijuana ordinance, critical areas, and commercial zoning ordinance. Helenberg stated that he proposes Mr. Dohrn serve in the capacity as lead planner, with the city contracting to Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments for daily permit review requirements. Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Lee to approve the amended planning service contract with Gregg Dohrn for fiscal year 2017
2. Councilmember Queen made a motion, seconded by Kessler to approve the fireworks permit application submitted by Castle Rock Eagles club in accordance with municipal code. By roll call vote; unanimous 'Aye'.
3. Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington requested council approval to begin soliciting applications for a new Deputy Clerk I. This would allow the position to be filled by the end of May, at the earliest. She noted Joanne Purvis has indicated her intention to retire from her position; possibly as early as July. Covington also requested council consider approving retaining Purvis as a part-time employee, at reduced hourly wage for the period August through September to allow additional staff transition training. Purvis has indicated she would be favorable toward this offer, if she is able to retain her medical coverage. Covington provided a breakdown of costs and the impact on various funds.

City Council suggested there are several other anticipated issues that will impact current year expenditures; especially for General Fund. By consensus, councilmembers agreed to approve solicitation of applications for the Deputy Clerk I position. They tabled further discussion on consideration of offering part-time employment until additional financial impacts are evaluated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Helenberg recessed regular session at 8:23 p.m. for a five-minute executive session to discuss a

purchase offer for city owned building located on Front Avenue NW. The Mayor ended Executive Session and resumed regular session at 8:27 p.m.

Councilmember Kessler made a motion, seconded by Queen to approve the city completing repairs of the two items identified in the inspection report. By roll call vote; unanimous 'Aye'.

Mayor Helenberg stated the new proposed closing date would be April 28, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Helenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Paul Helenberg, Mayor

Ryana Covington, Clerk-Treasurer